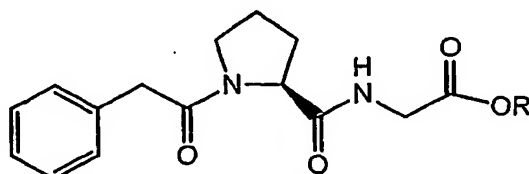


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for treating a symptom of MCI comprising administering to a mammal in need of such therapy, an effective amount of a compound of formula (I)

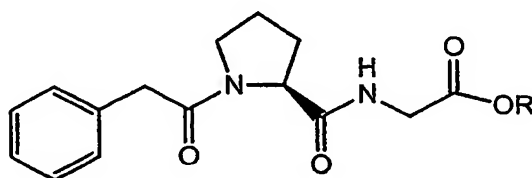


(I)

wherein R is (C₁-C₄)alkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the symptom of MCI is an impairment of memory function compared to one's age cohort; memory impairment that is at least one standard deviation below that of a subject's peers, but without significant impairment in activities of daily living; reduced medial lobe volume; delayed recall tasks or verbal and nonverbal stimuli; a decline in linguistic function or verbal fluency; or impairment in a single cognitive domain other than memory.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the symptom of MCI is the progression from MCI to AD.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the symptom of MCI is a symptom other than the progression from MCI to AD.
5. The method of claim 3 wherein the rate of progression from MCI to AD is reduced by at least about 10 percent.
6. The method of claim 3 wherein the rate of progression from MCI to AD is reduced by at least about 20 percent.

7. The method of claim 3 wherein the rate of progression from MCI to AD is reduced by at least about 50 percent.
8. The method of any one of claims 1-7 wherein the compound is $C_6H_5CH_2-C(=O)-L-Pro-Gly-OC_2H_5$, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
9. The use of a compound of formula (I)



(I)

- 10 wherein R is (C_1-C_4) alkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament useful for the treatment of a symptom of MCI in a mammal.
10. The use of claim 9 wherein the symptom of MCI is an impairment of memory function compared to one's age cohort; memory impairment that is at least one standard deviation below that of a subject's peers, but without significant impairment in activities of daily living; reduced medial lobe volume; delayed recall tasks or verbal and nonverbal stimuli; a decline in linguistic function or verbal fluency; or impairment in a single cognitive domain other than memory.
11. The use of claim 9 wherein the symptom of MCI is the progression from MCI to AD.
12. The use of claim 9 wherein the symptom of MCI is a symptom other than the progression from MCI to AD.

13. The use of claim 11 wherein the rate of progression from MCI to AD is reduced by at least about 10 percent.
14. The use of claim 11 wherein the rate of progression from MCI to AD is
5 reduced by at least about 20 percent.
15. The use of claim 11 wherein the rate of progression from MCI to AD is reduced by at least about 50 percent.
- 10 16. The use of any one of claims 9-15 wherein the compound is $C_6H_5CH_2-C(=O)-L-Pro-Gly-OC_2H_5$, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.